

LII.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

No. LV. (June 30th, 1898).

THE fifth-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 22nd of June, 1898. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty-one Members and one visitor were present.

The CHAIRMAN referred to the loss which the Club had recently suffered by the deaths of Mr. OSBERT SALVIN, F.R.S., and Mr. A. H. EVERETT; and expressions of sympathy with the families of the deceased were unanimously passed.

Mr. SCLATER exhibited the skins of two birds obtained by Capt. Wellby at high elevations during his recent adventurous journey across Northern Tibet. These were referred to *Syrnhaptes tibetanus*, shot on June 21st, 1897, in lat. $34^{\circ} 59'$, long. $82^{\circ} 30'$, at an elevation of 17,130 feet, and a Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*), shot on the 28th of July, 1897, in lat. $35^{\circ} 20'$, long. $88^{\circ} 30'$, at an altitude of 16,690 feet.

Mr. H. SAUNDERS made some remarks upon a recent visit to Ireland, in company with Mr. R. J. Ussher, and stated that there did not seem to be any danger of the extermination of the Peregrine or the Chough in the south and west. Eagles were becoming scarce in the west, chiefly owing to poison laid out for foxes and Hooded Crows. A considerable number of White Wagtails (*Motacilla alba*) passed along Killala Bay early in May, and an adult, with cotton-grass in its bill, was observed by Messrs. Ussher, Warren, and Saunders on June 10th, near Belmullet, co. Mayo.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition some very interesting photographs of places and episodes of bird-life in the Galapagos Islands, which had been taken by the naturalists attached to the recent expedition to the Archipelago.

Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE gave a short account of his recent visit to the Smoleu Islands in Northern Norway, and

exhibited some interesting specimens of the eggs of *Larus canus*; also the photographs he had taken of the different islands and the nests of the birds found thereon.

Mr. W. P. PYCRAFT made a communication concerning the avian "mesopterygoid" of W. K. Parker. This, he showed, did not represent a mesopterygoid, but was really a segmentation of the anterior end of the pterygoid, which, running forward along the internal border of the posterior end of the palatine, terminates over the posterior extremity of the vomer, with which it is often in actual contact. This is the permanent condition of these bones in the *Ratitæ*, where, however, the anterior end of the pterygoid does not segment off from the main body of the bone. In the *Carinatae*, later in life the segmented anterior end fuses with the palatine and thus disappears, a true joint being formed behind this, the pterygo-palatine articulation. Thus, the pterygoid of adult modern *Carinatae* represents only the posterior portion of that bone, the anterior portion having fused with the palatine. The matter will be dealt with fully in a forthcoming paper.

Mr. C. F. UNDERWOOD described four apparently new species of birds from Costa Rica and Guatemala:—

TINAMUS SALVINI, sp. n.

T. similis T. fuscipenni, sed multo minor, et secundariis extus pallidè rufo fasciatim notatis: præpectore et pectore summo olivascenti-griseis, fulvo transfasciatis: abdomine albicanti-fulvo, distinctè nigro transfasciato. Long. tot. 10·5 poll., culm. 1·15, alæ 7·2, caudæ 2·0, tarsi 2·0.

Hab. Carrillo, Costa Rica, Nov. 30, 1897 (*C. F. U.*).

CHLOROSPINGUS OLIVACEICEPS, sp. n.

C. similis C. canigulari, Lafr., sed pileo olivaceo dorso concolore distinguendus. Long. tot. 5·0 poll., culm. 0·45, alæ 2·6, caudæ 2·05, tarsi 0·75.

Hab. Carrillo, Costa Rica, Nov. 24, 1897 (*C. F. U.*).

ICTERUS GUALANENSIS, sp. n.

Similis *I. giraudi*, sed capitis nigredine usque ad occiput

extensâ. Long. tot. 8·5 poll., culm. 1·0, alæ 4·15, caudæ 4·1, tarsi 1·1.

Hab. Gualan, Guatemala, July 11, 1897 (*C. F. U.*).

PICOLAPTES SATURATION, sp. n.

Similis *P. compresso*, sed minor, rostro minore nigricantiore, notæo et gastræo saturatiore brunneis, maculis longitudinalibus conspicuè et latiùs nigro marginatis. Long. tot. 7 poll., culm. 0·95, alæ 3·5, caudæ 3·15, tarsi 0·7.

Hab. Gualan, Guatemala, Aug. 18, 1897 (*C. F. U.*).

DR. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited some specimens of birds recently received by the British Museum from Mount Albert Edward, in British New Guinea. One of these appeared to be the interesting Weaver-Finch described by Mr. De Vis as *Oreostruthus fuliginosus* (*Ibis*, 1897, p. 338; 1898, p. 175), excepting that the tail is described as having "many narrow blackish bars," whereas in the specimen exhibited it is uniform brown.

Two species of *Munia* appeared to be undescribed, and Dr. Sharpe proposed the following names for them:—

MUNIA SCRATCHLEYANA, sp. n.

M. similis *M. canicipiti*, sed dorso rufescenti-brunneo, præpectore cineraceo, pectore et hypochondriis pallidè cervino-rufis distinguenda. Long. tot. 3·8 poll., culm. 0·45, alæ 2·05, caudæ 1·45, tarsi 0·55.

MUNIA NIGRITORQUIS, sp. n.

M. similis *M. spectabili*, sed torque pectorali nigro et hypochondriis nigris distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·3 poll., culm. 0·5, alæ 2·5, caudæ 1·75, tarsi 0·8.

MR. W. L. SCLATER sent the description of a new species of Flycatcher from Inhambane, which he proposed to call:—

ERYTHROCERCUS FRANCISI, sp. n.

E. similis *E. livingstonii*, capite cinereo, sed caudâ nigro terminatâ distinguendus. Long. tot. 4·2 poll., culm. 0·4, alæ 1·85, caudæ 1·9, tarsi 0·7.

MR. ROBERT READ exhibited some eggs of the British *Turdidæ*, showing an interesting transition from spotless to deeply spotted specimens, especially in *T. musicus*.